

if you can't hold anything, you won't keep anything.

A. Phillip Randolph was so right. So today let us take back workers' rights, so that the American workers can hold onto their lives and hold on and make real the American dream.

ON THE USE OF THE DRUG MYOTROPHIN FOR SUFFERERS OF LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE, AND A CAUTIONARY NOTE ON USE OF THE INTERNET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, sometime in the next couple of weeks, the Food and Drug Administration has told my office that it will make a decision about the drug called myotrophin. This is the only drug currently available that gives some hope to the victims in the advanced stages of the deadly illness we all know as Lou Gehrig's disease.

As almost everyone knows, this is a horrible nerve disorder that slowly robs victims of their ability to walk, talk, move freely, and eventually even to eat, swallow, and breathe on their own. There is no cure. The disease has always been fatal. But now, finally, there is a drug, myotrophin, that gives victims of Lou Gehrig's disease some small sliver of hope.

Unfortunately, this drug has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. There is no question that this drug is absolutely safe, but the FDA questions if it actually improves quality of life.

The patients and doctors who have worked in the experimental trials are convinced it does improve and extend the lives of these victims. Demonstrating that improvement to an absolute mathematical statistical certainty is going to be a very long, arduous task. Thousands of people will be robbed of their only hope in the meantime.

An advisory committee of the FDA voted to reject final approval of the drug until more evidence is gathered. Sometime in the next couple of weeks the FDA will make the final decision on whether these sufferers will be allowed to use this drug.

The drug is safe, Mr. Speaker. There is some disagreement about its effectiveness, but many doctors and patients believe in myotrophin and want to use it. They should be allowed to do so. The FDA should not play God. They should not take away the last hope these people have. If this is still a free country, these victims of Lou Gehrig's disease should be allowed to use this drug if they and their doctors feel that they should.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move to an unrelated but also very important subject. Last week, last Friday, on the ABC program "20/20," Barbara Walters helped present what she described as the most important hour ever shown on

national television. This was a program attempting to alert parents to the horrible, sick, warped things that millions of children are being exposed to on the Internet. There are all types of pornography which cannot be totally effectively blocked, and, even worse, sexual predators preying on children over the Internet.

I know that for some reason there are some people who worship computers today and are greatly offended if anyone even implies that anyone or anything should restrict their use in even the slightest way. I also know that computers do wonderful and miraculous things and have greatly enhanced our quality of life. But I also know there is a down side to becoming totally, completely dependent on and controlled by computers and the Internet. We started out controlling the computers, and now they seemingly control us.

Mr. Speaker, I simply happen to believe that we should worship God, not Bill Gates. We have allowed far too much power to be concentrated in the hands of one man and one company, so I applaud the Justice Department for taking on Mr. Gates and Microsoft, although probably the government will lose in the end.

I heard on the national news a few months ago that the Massachusetts Division of Motor Vehicles was going totally online and hoped that they didn't have to see a live customer 10 years from now.

I heard a leading Washington sports columnist on the radio a few days ago say that when people called him to get his e-mail address and found out they were talking to him in person, they frequently, quickly hung up.

The Washington Post this week had a story about how the Internet was drawing some families closer together, because college students would have conversations over their computers that they would never have in person.

I read an article recently by a Harvard professor who said, we are allowing the electronic media to isolate us from each other, and that membership in all sorts of organizations, good organizations, is rapidly declining.

We worried about our children spending too many hours in front of television screens, so now we have placed them in front of computer screens that oftentimes have things on them far worse than what is on television.

With each passing year we seem to be talking less and less with each other. People do not know their next-door neighbors. They tell us that more and more people are working out of their homes. We are spending less and less time with our fellow live human beings, and more and more time in front of television and computer screens.

I sometimes wonder how much human contact there will be 50 or 100 years from now. On the 20/20 program they reported about the 11-year-old boy in New Hampshire who was murdered while selling door to door for his school. He was killed by a 15-year-old

boy whose mind was warped and filled with rage after a homosexual relationship with an adult he met over the Internet.

And then we have the year 2000 problem which Newsweek said is going to cost us \$1 trillion in litigations and software costs and other expenses simply because these computers cannot realize that we will change from 1999 to the year 2000.

This is crazy. It will cause everything to cost more.

I am not saying that we should do away with computers. I know that frequently, when someone disagrees, they resort to childish sarcasm because that is easier and simpler than arguing on the merits.

I know that some will be sarcastic about what I have said tonight.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am not saying, throw out our computers, but I am saying, do not get addicted to them, either. Do not go crazy over them. Do not let them get out of control and destroy the lives of innocent children. Be alert that there are dangers, and spend less time in front of screens and more time talking to and helping each other.

TRANSFER OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

WE MUST LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH WITH REGARD TO TURKEY'S FUNDING OF CHAIR AT UCLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. SHERMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to focus on a generous gift to my alma mater, but looking at the history of Troy, I have learned that sometimes one must look a gift horse in the mouth.

The Government of Turkey has offered over \$1 million to fund a chair at my alma mater, UCLA, in the study of Ottoman and Turkish history. While the generosity of such an offer should be noted, I note the concern in the academic community and concern among those of us concerned with international relations for the academic integrity and historical accuracy of the academic work that will be done by the occupant of this chair.

Our concern for history is based on history. The Turkish Government has endowed other chairs at other American universities, and the occupants of those chairs have sought not to report and analyze history, but to rewrite it and cover it up.

Mr. Speaker, as a Jewish American, I am very concerned with those who would want to cover up the history of